



COMMUNITY—BASED PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AGED YOUTH

WESTPORT YOUTH SERVICES — DEP'T OF HUMAN SERVICES 203-341-1050 WWW.WESTPORTCT.GOV

ELEMENTARY- HIGH SCHOOL

THE WESTPORT MENTOR PROGRAM:

Annette D'Augelli (203) 341-1183

adaugelli@westportct.gov

Community adults and high school students serve as a friend, guide and role model for school-age children. Mentor/Mentee meetings once per week at school. Referrals accepted from school staff, parents or community members.

KOOL TO BE KIND:

Elaine Daignault and Kelly Shamas

elained@westportct.gov & kshamas@westportps.org

A SHS Club that trains, creates and implements empathy-based lessons in the elementary schools focusing on leadership development, peer to peer modeling and positive relationships.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS:

Kevin Godburn (203) 341-1155

kgodburn@westportct.gov

Once a week, after-school community service program for middle school students.

MIDDLE — HIGH SCHOOL

TOQUET HALL:

Kevin Godburn 341-1155

kgodburn@westportct.gov

A supervised drug and alcohol-free center for teens offering a variety of programs and recreational activities for Westport high and middle school students.

WESTPORT I-MENTOR PROGRAM:

Kevin Godburn 341-1155

kgodburn@westportct.gov

Trained high school students create and present internet safety programs to middle school students. (WYC program)

Westport Police Youth Club:

Kevin Godburn 341-1155

kgodburn@westportct.gov

Bringing local middle and high school students together with Westport Police officers to build positive relationships and engage in community service.

HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT OUTREACH COUNSELOR PROGRAM:

Ed Milton (203) 341-1285

emilton@westportct.gov

The Student Outreach Counselor (SOC) provides crisis support to youth and families in Westport. Located at SHS in office #331

TAG – The Teen Awareness Group:

Ed Milton (203) 341-1285

teenawarenessgroup@gmail.com

A Staples High School Club focusing on peer education & community awareness of risky behaviors. TAG meets weekly to plan and implement peer education programs

THE WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION:

Kevin Godburn at (203) 341-1155 or

kgodburn@westportct.gov

The Westport Youth Commission - students & adults, appointed by the First Selectman, meet on a monthly basis to discuss and advocate for issues important to youth.

Other HSD Programs benefiting Youth & Families:

- Casework and referrals for children, youth, and families including annual Mental Health Breakfast
- Information & Referral
- Short-term & crisis counseling
- Family support team
- Financial assistance, Fuel assistance
- Housing resources
- Westport Transit District and Town-to-Town tickets
- Holiday Giving / Campership / Ceremonies & Celebrations / Back to School programs
- PYD – parenting programs
- Westport Prevention Coalition

Westport's Department of Human Services serves in an advisory capacity to community partners and advocates for various youth focused initiatives:

- Positive Youth Development Initiative
- Connecticut Youth Services Association
- Westport Prevention Coalition
- Westport Kiwanis Club
- Westport PTA
- Kool to be Kind
- Westport Police Youth Club
- Westport-Norwalk Juvenile Review Board
- WestCog Drug Task Force
- Domestic Violence Task Force

Town of Westport, DHS Youth Services:

Elaine Daignault, MA, NCC Director	Annette D'Augelli PYD/Parenting & Mentor Program 203-341-1183
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Ed Milton, LMSW Student Outreach Counselor (203) 341-1285 emilton@westportps.org	Michelle Bottone, LMFT Youth and Family Social Worker Municipal Agent for People with Disabilities (203) 341-1068; mbottone@westportct.gov

An overview of Collaborative, Community-Based Programs for Youth and Families in Westport

Coordinated by the Town of Westport, Department of Human Services

Westport's ***Positive Youth Development*** initiative is a collaboration of **Westport's Department of Human Services**, the **Westport Police Department**, the **Westport Public Schools**, the **PTA**, and **Positive Directions** to meet the emerging needs of families and children in Westport. PYD partners meet regularly with the WPS PYD/Health and Wellness Committee to coordinate school and community programs.

Community-based programs, informed by PYD partners, offered across the ages, spanning from elementary through high school, developed in consideration of appropriate developmental stages, through formal and information needs assessments, evidence-based practices, and input from key stakeholders in the community.

Human Services works closely with Westport School personnel to identify and support the needs of school-aged children and their families throughout the district. DHS provides financial assessments & assistance for income-qualified families serves as a hub for information and referral addressing a variety of needs of residents. **Bi-Monthly Family Support Team** meetings provide a forum for professional staff members to assist families in accessing programs and services for at-risk families. DHS sits on the **Norwalk-Westport Juvenile Review Board** and collaborates with school and community partners to provide resources and supports as needed.

All school aged families/students are eligible for referral to the PYD programs including the **Westport Mentor Program**, case management, counseling and information/referrals, and income-based programs like the **Westport-Weston Early Childhood Community Collaborative**, **Afterschool Scholarships**, **Camperships**, **Back to School**, and **Ceremonies & Celebrations**. Thanks to community donations.

Elementary school families benefit from school-based, *community collaborations*, in addition to the all-ages programs listed above, focusing on social skills and responsible decision-making activities such as **Kool to be Kind** which engages high school kids in the development and implementation of lessons with elementary students.

Middle school students are encouraged to explore leadership opportunities, build character and develop effective decision-making skills through such programs as the peer-to-peer **IMentor program** (6th), **Community Service Corps** (6th-8th), the **Toquet Hall Leadership Club** (6th – 8th) and access to the **Student Outreach Counselor** for counseling and support services.

High school students have a plethora of leadership and prevention opportunities including access to the **Student Outreach Counselor** and **Families in Need programs**. High school students and families benefit from school and community-based prevention programs like the **Teen Awareness Group** (TAG) where 10-12th graders develop and implement peer education awareness programs which highlight responsible decision-making and the prevention of risky behaviors. Staples kids can become peer mentors through the **Westport Mentor Program**, TAG, **Kool to be Kind**, and the **IMentor Programs**. They can also participate in civic discussions through the **Westport Youth Commission**, and the **Westport Police-Youth Collaborative** (WPYC), the **Fairfield County Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse** (FCA-PSA) and the newly formed **Westport Prevention Coalition to Prevent Substance Misuse**. Supervised, student-led social and recreational opportunities for leadership development through **Toquet Hall**, our town funded teen center.

Public input and collaboration with other agencies is a key component to addressing the needs of young people and their families. The Human Services Department utilizes the many resources available in our community to help connect individuals with programs and to create further opportunities and/or strategies to meet emerging needs or possible gaps in services.